REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on December 21, 2007. Claims 1 and 8 are amended editorially and are supported, for example, in the specification at page 3, lines 21-23 and page 16, lines 8-9, and in Figures 3 and 4. No new matter is added. Claims 1-9 are pending.

§102 Rejections:

Claims 1, 2 and 6-9 are rejected as being anticipated by Kozuka (US Patent No. 6,473,538). Reexamination and reconsideration of amended claims 1 and 8 is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 is directed to an image reading apparatus that requires, among other features, a plurality of control chips, each of which includes a clock signal input section for input of a clock signal and a reset signal generator for generating a reset signal based on both the resolution data and the clock signal.

Kozuka does not disclose or suggest these features. In particular, nowhere does Kozuka disclose or suggest a reset signal generator that generates a reset signal based on both the resolution data and the clock signal. Kozuka is directed to an image sensor that discloses a mode signal, interpreted as the resolution data of claim 1, inputted to the switching means (10) of the photoelectric conversion device (1), while the clock signal is inputted to the timing generation circuit (5) (see Figure 4 of Kozuka). Nowhere does Kozuka disclose or suggest that the timing generation circuit (5) is configured to cooperate with the switching means (10) to create a reset signal. Accordingly, Kozuka cannot disclose or suggest a reset signal generated based on both the mode signal and the clock signal as required by the reset signal generated based on both the resolution data and the clock signal of claim 1. For at least these reasons claim 1 is not suggested by Kozuka and should be allowed. Claims 2, 6 and 7 depend from claim 1 and should be allowed for at least the same reasons.

Claim 8 is directed to a control chip for controlling driving of an image sensor chip that requires, among other features, a clock signal input section for input of a clock signal and a reset signal generator for generating a reset signal based on both the resolution data and the clock signal.

Kozuka does not disclose or suggest these features. As discussed above, with respect to claim 1, nowhere does Kozuka disclose or suggest that the timing generation circuit (5) is configured to cooperate with the switching means (10) to create a reset signal. Accordingly, Kozuka cannot disclose or suggest a reset signal generated based on both the mode signal and the clock signal as required by the reset signal generated based on both the resolution data and the clock signal as required by claim 8. for at least these reasons claim 8 is not suggested by Kozuka and should be allowed. Claim 9 depends from claim 8 and should be allowed for at least the same reasons.

§103 Rejections:

Claims 3 and 4 are rejected as being unpatentable over Kozuk in view of Lowen (US Patent No. 5,373,372). This rejection is traversed. Claims 3 and 4 depend from claim 1 and should be allowed for at least the same reasons described above. Applicant does not concede the correctness of this rejection.

Conclusion:

Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 1-9 are in condition for allowance. If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicant's primary attorney-of record, Curtis B. Hamre (Reg. No. 29,165), at (612) 455-3802.

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Respectfully submitted,

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